

Appl. No. 09/682,151  
Date of Filing: November 6, 2006  
Communication to the Examiner

**In The United States Patent & Trademark Office**

Applicant: Martin E. Kordes, et al.	) Examiner: Jerome Jackson, Jr
	)
Serial No.: 09/682,151	) Art Unit: 2815
	)
Filed: 27 July 2001	) Confirmation No.: 5628
	)
	)
For :CONTACT METHOD FOR THIN	)
SILICON CARBIDE EPITAXIAL	)
LAYER AND SEMICONDUCTOR	)
DEVICES FORMED BY THOSE	)
METHODS	)
	)

**COMMUNICATION TO THE EXAMINER**

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop: Issue Fee  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following references were cited in the International Search Report of the corresponding Patent Cooperation Treaty (application no. PCT/US02/23662) and not cited during the prosecution of the above-referenced application:

US 5,504,018 A (SATO) 02 April 1996 (02.04.1996);  
US 4,701,349 A (KOYANAGI et al) 20 October 1987 (20.10.1987);  
US 4,196,228 A (PRIEL et al) 01 April 1980 (01.04.1980);  
US 5,719,760 A (UMEDA et al) 17 February 1998 (17.02.1998);  
US 5,955,775 A (MIWA) 21 September 1999 (21.09.1999);  
US 6,156,505 A (SAWADA) 05 December 2000 (05.12.2000);  
US 5,040,041 A (YAMADA et al) 13 August 1991 (13.08.1991).

The International Search Report was prepared by Chris Chu who is believed to be the same Chris Chu that was the initial examiner in this application. There were

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five additional references cited in the International Search Report that were cited by Examiner Chu in the examination of the present application. The International Search Report was completed on November 27, 2002, between the dates of the first and second Office Actions prepared by Examiner Chu. Although Examiner Chu was only examining claims 9-15, all of the references in the above list were shown as relevant in the International Search Report to at least some of the claims examined by Examiner Chu. Therefore it is believed that Examiner Chu was aware of the above-listed references. It is noted that two other examiners were subsequently assigned to this application, and all of the original claims were later included in the prosecution of the above-referenced application.

Of the seven references listed above, only the first three were the only references not listed in Category "A" in the International Search Report. None of the these first three references teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in reasons for allowance by the Examiner when the case was allowed. Moreover, none of the these three references teach or suggest a "compound semiconductor element" as that term is used in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that these references be made of record.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if he has any matters to address that will facilitate allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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